

As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have witnessed first-hand the importance of people-to-people exchanges. They are instrumental in promoting our country and the democratic ideals that make our country great.

In addition, like many Members of this House, both Republican and Democrat alike, I, too, have been a part of a citizens exchange program. The American council of young political leaders, one of the recipients of USIA funding, was formed nearly 30 years ago as a non-profit bi-partisan educational exchange organization to enhance foreign policy understanding and exposure among rising young American political leaders and their counterparts around the world.

Since its establishment, Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 political leaders from the United States and 2,000 foreign delegates have participated in some 500 governmental and business exchanges with their counterparts in more than 70 countries. The ACYPL's efforts are a key component of not only our exchange programs but in fostering better relations and understandings between nations. I am only sorry that programs such as ACYPL's may be at risk as a result of these proposed cuts in educational and exchange programs.

SISTER GRACE IMELDA  
BLANCHARD

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of a truly outstanding and caring individual who dedicated her life to the education of our young people.

Sister Grace Imelda Blanchard was in many ways the epitome of those with whom so many Americans are familiar—the women of the religious community who truly believed that expanding the minds of young men and women was instrumental in carrying out God's intentions.

A native of New Haven, CT, Sister Grace received her bachelor of arts degree from Albertus Magnus College in 1936, a master's in secondary supervision in 1943, and a Ph.D. in education from New York University in 1968. Realizing that only by becoming a religious would she be able to fully devote her life to education, she entered the order of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, NY, on September 8, 1957. She subsequently entered the novitiate June 11, 1958; made her first profession June 17, 1959, and her final profession August 21, 1962.

Sister Grace's career as an educator encompassed a number of high schools, but it was at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh that she truly made her mark, beloved by her students, by her peers, by the administration, and by the community at large. She was an associate professor from 1968 to 1977 and a professor of education from 1978 to 1983. The administrators at Mount Saint Mary asked Sister Grace to take charge of the college's efforts to receive grant funding. They could not have made a better choice, for Sister Grace soon became a regular visitor to my congressional offices and other offices throughout

Washington and Albany, where her perseverance and expertise in obtaining funding for the students became legendary.

Sister Grace was universally respected because she never hid the fact that she considered the education of the students to be her prime responsibility. We all admired the professional manner in which she knew how to obtain funding in an ever more competitive environment.

Sister Grace Imelda's accomplishments were not confined to her college. Her work on the literacy program for adults at the local high school, at the soup kitchen at St. Patrick's Church in Newburgh, and as a catechetical teacher in Montgomery, NY, made her known and loved in all of those communities.

In 1986, Sister Grace was presented with the Mount Saint Mary Faculty Award. The text of that award states:

We are in her debt, not only for her stewardship over grants and goals, but also because she makes us better individuals. It is possible to calculate the dollars she has obtained for the college in writing Title III Grants, but impossible to measure her more priceless contribution of self.

Sister Grace Imelda was traveling to the founding chapter of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Massachusetts when she was taken ill. We lost her while the chapter was in session and she was buried with a rite of commitment on July 24. However, on next Monday, August 7, will mark a memorial mass in her honor at the college chapel, where her many friends and admirers will gather to bid farewell to a remarkable woman.

I happened to speak to Sister Grace just a few days prior to her passing. As was her practice, she had called to remind me that education must remain one of Congress' top priorities, and to underscore the need for continued quality in higher education. As always, Sister Grace was seeking future funding to assist in the laudable goals of her college.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to her sister-in-law, to her niece, to her four nephews, and to her many grandnieces and grandnephews. Their grief may be tempered with the knowledge that it is shared by many, and by the realization that Sister Grace Imelda Blanchard was a rare individual who will long be remembered.

#### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA SELF- DEFENSE ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 21) to terminate the United States arms embargo applicable to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, this week the Congress spoke its mind on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we did so clearly and forcefully, just as the Senate did last week. By an overwhelming majority, we supported the right of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to defend themselves.

The Congress, however, is not the only voice expressing outrage over the toleration of

aggression and genocide. On Monday, 27 nongovernmental organizations released a joint statement on Bosnia. It is a powerful statement which I request be inserted into the RECORD, and which I commend to my colleagues. Let me quote from it:

Bosnia is not a faraway land of no concern to our "national interest." At stake is the global commitment to fundamental human values—the right not to be killed because of one's religion or ethnic heritage, and the right of civilians not to be targeted by combatants. The time has come for multilateral military action to end the massacre of innocent civilians in Bosnia. Nothing else has worked. Force must be used to stop genocide, not simply to retreat from it. American leadership, in particular, is required.

These words, Mr. Speaker, come from a variety of American organizations. They include religious organizations, those dedicated to humanitarian causes, including the care of refugees; and groups dedicated to the rule of law. These are not organizations which one would assume support military options; the fact that they do says something about the gravity of what is happening in Bosnia. Moreover, some are Arab-American organizations, and some are Jewish-American organizations. The list represents a broad spectrum.

Another statement on Bosnia has also been released recently—the letter of resignation by the U.N.'s rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. Mr. Mazowiecki is known as a thoughtful and principled man; his dedication to human rights is evident as much in his resignation as it was in his acceptance of this position 3 years ago. I would like to submit that statement for the RECORD as well, Mr. Speaker, and let me quote a few lines from it:

One cannot speak about the protection of human rights with credibility when one is confronted with the lack of consistency and courage displayed by the international community and its leaders. The reality of the human rights situation today is illustrated by the tragedy of the people of Srebrenica and Zepa. . . Crimes have been committed with swiftness and brutality and by contrast the response of the international community has been slow and ineffectual. . . I would like to believe that the present moment will be a turning point in the relationship between Europe and the world toward Bosnia. The very stability of international order and the principle of civilization is at stake over the question of Bosnia. I am not convinced that the turning point hoped for will happen and cannot continue to participate in the pretense of the protection of human rights.

These words, Mr. Speaker, reflect the frustration of many of us who see the conflict in Bosnia for what it is, and know what needs to be done to stop it. This is not a civil war based on ancient hatreds. This is not simply about Bosnia. This conflict is about aggression and genocide, and we must beware the message which the international community is sending should give to those around the world willing to use force to achieve their political ends.

In responding to crises and conflicts, we must remain objective, and attempt to see things as they really are, without bias. That means we must abandon an artificial neutrality. We must instead identify aggressor and stand with the victim of aggression. Just as these 27 nongovernmental organizations and Mr. Mazowiecki have taken that step, so must